

Minutes of the Library Advisory Committee (LAC)

For the Montgomery County Correctional Facility

For April 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order by LAC Chair, Katharine Lorr. Also in attendance were LAC members Mier Wolf, Richard Lorr, Frank Joseph, and Patricia Hulsebosch; Tanner Wray, Liaison to the LAC for the Montgomery County Library Board; James Donaldson, MCPL Acting Assistant Director, Collection and Technology and Interim Library Manager; Gale Starkey, Deputy Warden, Inmate Services; Denise Habib, MCCF Librarian; and Victor Drilea, a member of the public and MCCF volunteer.

Guest: Robert Green, Director Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation

1. Kathy welcomed those attending the LAC meeting. The Committee dispensed with a reading of the minutes of the March 12, 2018 meeting, which were approved with one change.
2. Membership Report: Victor suggested that we need to do outreach for diversity on the LAC and the LAC agreed.
3. Interim Library Manager's Report: James reported that the advertisement for a new jail librarian would close in two days. He also noted that there is improvement on the MCPL website for the MCCF library. Denise reported that Lexus/Nexus failed functionally in the library's attempt to see if they should succeed or replace West Law services. The product was not good and the review has been terminated.
4. Director Robert Green gave an oversight review of the jail services. He noted that 71% of pre-trial individuals are monitored outside the jail after careful risk assessment. He reported that the use of tablets by inmates greatly increases their connection with the outside world and better prepares them to succeed when they are released from the jail after their terms are served. He noted that day to day lifestyle information was available on the tablets, such as nutrition suggestions, but much more. He thought poetry, for instance, could be added to the tablet offerings. Kathy asked him if the LAC could survey inmates as to what library services help them and how these could be improved. Robert said a survey could be done by the LAC and described some logistics of such efforts working with Denise. The LAC can pursue this with the new Library Manager. The jail currently has 652 inmates with 96 tablets in use. Robert suggested that tablets are crucial for inmates though he also advised that one tablet could cost as much as \$1,000 per year to keep updated. Tablet programming is strictly controlled but the universe of possibilities for inmates in approved aps is extensive.
5. Library Board Liaison Report: Tanner informed the LAC that the revised LAC manual should be released soon. He reminded everyone of election requirements (they must be held by June) and annual reporting requirements for all LACs (due on a form by September 30). He suggested that because the manual requires the LAC Chair to run LAC meetings we skip a May or June meeting this year since the Lorr will be away. The LAC agreed that this is sensible as we await the hiring of a new

- Library Manager. With that hire, the LAC can work on a strategic plan and implementation of what we already have permission to offer to the inmates.
6. Report on book donations: Pat has mounted an impressive effort to make book contributions to the jail library in part by collected donated books at other public libraries and ensuring they are appropriately forwarded to the MCCF through another MCPL. The books are screened for appropriate content before they can be used in the MCCF Library. Long Branch Library has been particularly helpful in getting books to MCCF
  7. Elections were held. After a brief discussion, Kathy Lorr was elected LAC Chair and Mier Wolf was elected LAC secretary.
  8. Mier reported on the idea of a Theater Lab performance as a way to provide opportunities for inmates to see ways to tell their stories.
  9. The LAC agreed to defer discussion of the drafted Poetry Program procedures and proposed mission statement to the fall. Further discussion of creating an FOL is also tabled until the fall or a time when the LAC is sufficiently established to make this happen. Gale agreed that MCCF could host readings for Mother's Day and Father's Day and provided windows for those. She noted that for LAC programs other than poetry, we will work with Kindra Yokum, Re-entry Services.

Respectfully submitted, Mier Wolf, LAC Secretary April 10, 2018

**Note: The next LAC meeting is scheduled for September 10 at the Correctional Facility**